

### Abstract of the Disclosure

A self-expanding stent delivery assembly includes a shaft having a proximal end, a distal end, a distal region, a lumen, and a longitudinal axis. A retractable sheath having an outer surface, a proximal end and a distal end is co-axially disposed around the shaft distal region. A stent is disposed co-axially between the shaft and the retractable sheath. 5 A tubular tapered tip is affixed to the retractable sheath distal end. The tubular tapered tip has an elongate region predisposed to fracturing. Methods of delivering a self-expanding stent are also described.

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10:** The undersigned hereby certified that this paper or papers, as described herein are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" having an Express Mail mailing label number of: EV 315612736 US, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 23rd day of January 2004.

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